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INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR) REPORT
 SUBJECT The Ukrainka State Farm Near Kharkov DATE DISTR. 29 November 1956 25X1

NO. PAGES

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This is UNEVALUATED
Information.

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REFERENCES

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1. [redacted] a report on the Ukrainka State Farm near Kharkov.
2. The report covers the following topics relating to the farm, which was destroyed during World War II and had just completed ten years of reconstruction in October 1955:
 - a. General.
 - b. Farm population, labor force, and equipment.
 - c. Wages.
 - d. Social facilities and other benefits.
 - e. Objectives and organization of the farm.
 - f. Production.
 - g. Dairy barn methods.
 - h. General impression.

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U.S.S.R.EconomicSoviet Agriculture: State Farm "UKRAINKA" near
KHARKHOV.A. GENERAL.

The farm has the name "UKRAINKA"; its major operation is cattle breeding in which it works with the State Institute of Cattle Breeding. It was destroyed during the war and has only just completed 10 years of reconstruction. It is only in the last two years that the first harvests have been gathered in some sections e.g. the orchards. The farm covers 5,500 hectares (say 13,500 acres) split up into three blocks the furthest of which is 25 kilometres distant from the centre.

B. FARM POPULATION, LABOUR FORCE and EQUIPMENT.

55 tractors

25 combines (of which 5 are self-propelled)

All harvesting and all haying is said to be fully mechanised.

1500 beef cattle

400 milch cows

5000 pigs

5000 sheep

38 good workers qualified for invitation to Agricultural Exhibition.

The farm is populated by 230 families from which a total labour force of 300 workers is drawn.

Of these 300, 70 are women, of which 58 have been decorated for their achievements and of which one has obtained the honoured title of "heroine of the U.S.S.R.". 100 of the workers are on the mechanical side, i.e. tractor and combine drivers, maintenance engineers.

C. WAGES.

Tractor drivers average 700 roubles per month (payment is made on a "piecework" basis i.e. at certain rates for every hectare plowed or harvested etc).

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Milkmaids average 600/700 roubles per month depending on yield of milk from the cows for which they are responsible.

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Cow-hands average 6/8/1,000 roubles per month depending on success in putting weight on calves (although the actual food rations for calves are established by the farm veterinarians and management).

D. SOCIAL FACILITIES and OTHER BENEFITS.

The farm provides housing for all its workers - some in apartments, some in houses. Each household may own 1 cow, 1 pig, unlimited poultry and they usually have a small garden plot for growing vegetables and fruit.

Cinema or meeting-hall

Club and reading room with library of 5,000 books

Canteen

Shop

Creche for children up to 3

Kindergarten 3 - 7

School and Sanatorium

Bus service provided to take older children to school or colleges in KHARKIOV.

E. OBJECTIVES and ORGANIZATION of the FARM.

1. The prime purpose of this farm is to breed cattle and in this it works closely with the State Institute of Cattle Breeding. It is only one, although perhaps the most important, of a number of state farms on which cattle breeding is conducted.
2. They are developing new breeds and improving the quality of existing breeds. They supply breeding stock to the collective farms with the general objective of improving the number and quality of cattle in the Soviet Union.
3. They are also concerned with studying methods of feeding, dietary balances, methods of preparing and storing silage and in the application of veterinary science. Although the Station refers to 'cattle' breeding, this term includes also pigs and sheep.
4. The farm is managed by a Director (who is an Agronomist), a deputy Director (who is also entitled Chief Technician) and there is a staff of specialists such as a mechanical engineer, veterinarians and so on.

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5. All the farm workers belong to a Trade Union and elect a representative annually by secret ballot. This representative sits with the Management and oversees working conditions, the provision of social and other amenities, housing problems, and deals with complaints and difficulties.

6. Perhaps incidental to its cattle breeding operation is the production of milk, most of which is sent to KHARKHOV for consumption in the city, and of meat, grain, fruit and vegetables.

F. PRODUCTION.

1. In 1954/5 the farm supplied to various collective farms 450 breeding bulls, 1,000 breeding sows (large whites) and 1,000 breeding sows (other types).

2. In regard to milk production, the farm Director claimed that he was achieving about 1,800 tons of milk annually. By 1960 his target was said to be a total milk production of about 2,750 tons which he maintained he would achieve and surpass.

3. The average yield per milk cow was 5,000 litres annually and in the barns was seen a number of the better cows who had already achieved over 8,000 litres in the 300 days to date, although others were down to 2,000 to 3,000 litres.

4. The average butter fat content for the farm was said to be 4.1% which compared with 3.7% average for the whole of the U.S.S.R. The best breeds were yielding 4.4% butter fat although generally these cows gave smaller volume yield.

G. DAIRY BARN METHODS.

1. The milk cows are kept entirely in the barn. Mechanical manure handling, automatic water supply and airlines for milkers were seen in each barn.

Unusual features noted were:

- (a) Most cows are milked three times per day - and even four times just after calving - as compared with the normal twice daily milking practiced in Canada or the U.S.A., and which is believed to be healthier for the cow.
- (b) Each cow is given a hot shower and wash down with green soap weekly.
- (c) Calves are all bottle fed from time of birth.
- (d) There is an average of 1 milkmaid for every ten cows and calves which looks like an uneconomically large labour force by Western standards.

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2. It was stated that milk cows were receiving daily a ration of:

20 to 25 kilos of silage

30 to 40 Kilos of chopped roots, mostly beet

10 kilos of hay.

H. GENERAL IMPRESSION.

1. The general impression of the barns seen was very good and the milk cows and the calves looked healthy and well kept. The management is obviously proud of its mechanical features (e.g. mechanised manure handling with a central dump arrangement). The general dairy equipment seemed entirely adequate (milkers, pasteuriser, sprayer, cooler and refrigerator) although by no means ultra-modern.

2. They were very proud of their self-propelled combine which they demonstrated, and were obviously badly shaken to learn that Massey-Harris invented such a machine and that they had been using it for 25 years, although in Russia it is an innovation of the last eight years.

3. It was stated that the farm made a profit of 2 million roubles in 1954, half of which was paid over to the Central Government, and half of which was retained on the farm to improve its equipment and its working and living conditions.

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